

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the official action dated March 29, 2006, finally rejecting claims 1-11 and 49-63. The claim amendments included herein are merely clarifying amendments and are not meant to change the intended scope of the claims. Thus, the amendments present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal, and they should be entered in due course. Moreover, the amendments are manifest, requiring only a cursory review by the Examiner, thereby providing additional ground for their entry.

Claims 1-11 and 49-63 were pending in the application. In the official action, claims 1-11, and 49-63 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1, 11 and 49 have been amended, and new claims 87 and 88 have been added. Claims 1-11, 49-63, 87, and 88 thus remain for consideration.

Applicants submit that claims 1-11, 49-63, 87, and 88 are in condition for allowance and request withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

§102 Rejections

Claims 1-11 and 49-63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Daggar (U.S. Patent No. 5,748,737).

Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 11, and 49 are patentable over Daggar.

Applicants' invention as recited in claims 1, 11 and 49 is directed toward a data reproducing apparatus and a data reproducing method. Each of claims recites that reproduction "right data" is updated or changed upon reproduction of contents data, and that the "right data" is updated or changed according to subordinate data which corresponds to the contents data. Supporting disclosure can be found in the specification at, for example, page 24, line 5 - page 32, line 12.

Daggar does not disclose updating or changing reproduction right data upon reproduction of contents data wherein the reproduction right data is updated or changed according to subordinate data which corresponds to the contents data. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 1, 11, and 49 are patentable over Daggar on at least this basis.

Further, since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, Applicants believe that dependent claims 2-10, 50-63, 87 and 88 are patentable over Daggar for at least the same reasons as discussed in connection with claims 1 and 49.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (908) 654-5000.

Application No.: 09/869,816

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.3-731

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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